DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 343 946 TM 018 127

TITLE	American Education at a Glance.
INSTITUTION	National Center for Education Statistics (ED), Washington, DC.
REPORT NO	NCES-92-696
PUB DATE	Mar 92
NOTE	13p.
PUB TYPE	Statistical Data (110)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Educational Attainment; Educational Finance; *Educational Trends; Elementary Secondary Education; *Enrollment; Graphs; Higher Education; *Private Schools; *Public Schools; *School Statistics; Tables (Data); Teacher Salaries; Trend Analysis
IDENTIFIERS	Fact Sheets

ABSTRACT

This brochure presents essential facts about educational trends in the United States in table or graph form. Trends are detailed in 16 tables and six graphs related to the following: (1) participation in education; (2) number of schools; (3) enrollment; (4) teachers; (5) revenues; (6) expenditures; and (7) educational attainment. Over 25% of the people in the United States are students or are employed by schools or colleges. About 15,400 school districts operated over 83,000 public elementary schools and secondary schools in 1989. There were about 26,800 private elementary schools and secondary schools and about 3,500 colleges and universities. After years of decline, public elementary school and secondary school enrollment began to rise in 1985, as did enrollment in higher education. Mean salaries for the nation's more than 2.7 million elementary school and secondary school teachers have risen steadily, although more slowly than the inflation rate of the late 1970s and more rapidly than the inflation rate of the 1980s. In 1979, the state share of revenues for schools rose above the local share for the first time. The Federal share has remained relatively small. Expenditures for both elementary and secondary education and higher education were rising in 1989. Dropout rates for blacks and all students were declining; and the numbers of associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctor's degrees were increasing. Five sources for the data are listed, including preeminently NCES's "Digest of Education Statistics, 1991."

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American Education at a Glance

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1. Participation in Education

- Over 25% of the people in the United States are students or are employed by schools or colleges.

Education participants	Fall 1990 (estimated, in millions)
Number of students	
Elementary and secondary	46.2
Higher education	14.0
Teachers and faculty	3.5
Nonteaching staff	3.8
Total participants	67.5
Total population	250.4

2. Number of Schools

- About 15,400 school districts operated over 83,000 public elementary and secondary schools in 1989.

- There were approximately 26,800 privately operated elementary and secondary schools in 1987.

- There were approximately 3,500 colleges and universities in 1989.

Elementary and secondary schools	Public fall 1989	Private fall 1987
Elementary	59,757	16,936
Secondary	20,359	2,395
Combined	2,280	6,023
Other schools*	1,029	1,453
Total	83,425	26,807

* Includes special education, alternative, and others not reported by grade span.

	Fall 1989		
Colleges and universities	Total	Public	Private
4-year colleges	2,127	595	1,532
2-year colleges	1,408	968	440
Total	3,535	1,563	1,972

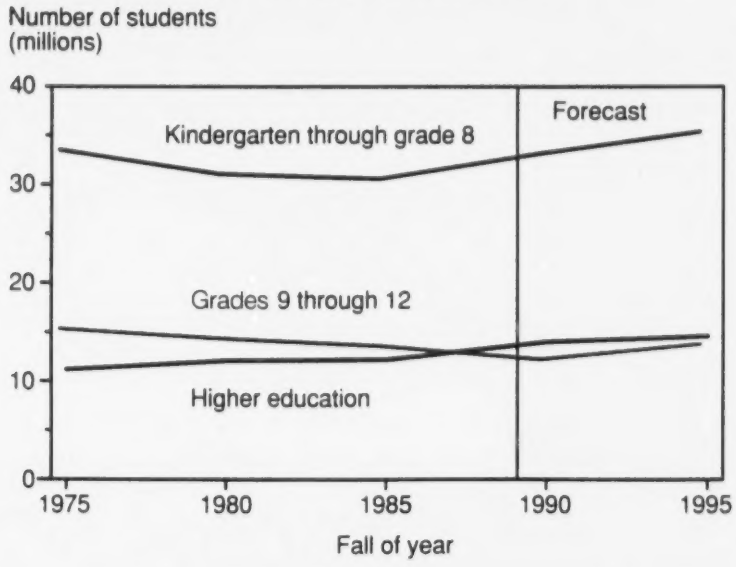
3. Enrollment

- After years of decline, public elementary and secondary (el/sec) school enrollment began rising again in 1985.

- Private school enrollment has remained relatively stable since 1980.

- Higher education enrollment has continued to increase during the past two decades despite a drop in the traditional college-age population beginning in the early 1980s.

Enrollment in all public and private elementary and secondary schools, and higher education

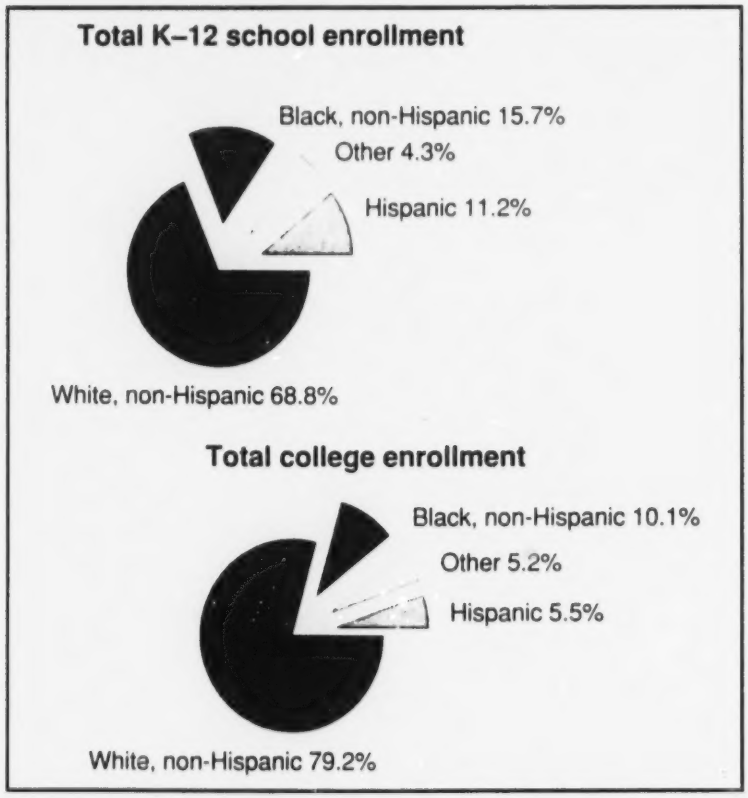


	Enrollment in fall (students, in millions)				
	1975	1980	1985	1990[1]	1995[2]
Elementary (K–8)	34.2	31.7	31.2	33.8	36.1
Public	30.5	27.7	27.0	29.7	31.8
Private	[1]3.7	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.3
Secondary (9–12)	15.6	14.5	13.8	12.4	14.0
Public	14.3	13.2	12.4	11.3	12.7
Private	[1]1.3	1.3	1.4	1.1	1.3
Total el/sec (K–12)	49.8	46.2	45.0	46.2	50.1
Public	44.8	40.9	39.4	41.0	44.4
Private	5.0	5.3	5.6	5.2	5.6
Higher education	11.2	12.1	12.2	14.0	14.6
Public	8.8	9.5	9.5	10.9	11.4
Private	2.4	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.2
Total	61.0	58.3	57.2	60.2	64.7

[1] Estimated.
[2] Projected.

• In 1990, 27 percent of elementary and secondary students were black or Hispanic while 16 percent of college students were black or Hispanic.

Student race/ethnicity, 1990

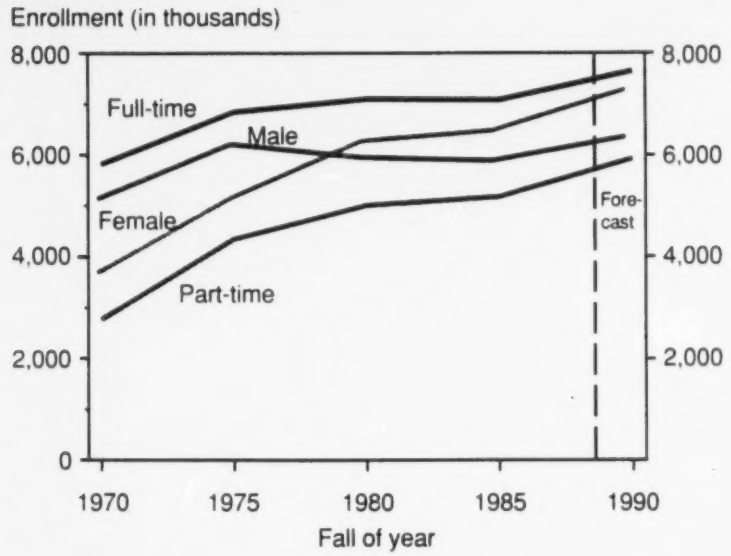


	% Distribution in fall[1]			
Student race/ethnicity	**1975[2]**	**1980**	**1985**	**1990**
Public and private el/sec enrollment				
White, non-Hispanic	77.4	74.4	71.3	68.8
Black, non-Hispanic	14.4	15.2	15.5	15.7
Hispanic	6.6	8.1	9.7	11.2
Other	1.7	2.3	3.5	4.3
Public and private higher education enrollment				
White, non-Hispanic	84.0	83.1	81.0	79.2
Black, non-Hispanic	9.6	9.9	9.5	10.1
Hispanic	4.2	4.2	5.3	5.5
Other	2.3	2.8	4.2	5.2

[1] Data from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.
[2] Excludes persons 35 years old and older.

• The rise in higher education is partially due to a substantial increase in the number of women, older students, and part-time students attending college.

Enrollment in higher education, by sex and attendance status



Total higher education enrollment

	% Distribution in fall				
	1970	**1975**	**1980**	**1985**	**1990***
Male	58.8	55.0	48.6	47.5	45.3
Female	41.2	45.0	51.4	52.5	54.7
Full-time	67.8	61.2	58.7	57.8	56.9
Part-time	32.2	38.8	41.3	42.2	43.1
14–21 years old	55.2	47.4	46.1	42.6	41.4
22–29 years old	29.5	31.5	31.9	31.7	30.0
30 years old & older	15.3	21.0	22.0	25.7	28.6

* Estimated.

4. Teachers

Number of elementary and secondary teachers

Fall of year	Total	Public	Private
1960	1,600,000	1,408,000	[1]192,000
1965	1,933,000	1,710,000	223,000
1970	2,288,000	2,055,000	233,000
1975	2,451,000	2,196,000	[1]255,000
1980	2,485,000	2,184,000	301,000
1985	2,550,000	2,207,000	343,000
1986	2,592,000	2,244,000	[1]348,000
1987	2,631,000	2,279,000	353,000
1988	2,668,000	2,323,000	[1]345,000
1989	2,734,000	2,356,000	[1]377,000
1990[2]	2,744,000	2,391,000	[1]353,000

[1] Estimated.
[2] Preliminary.

• In the fall of 1989, there were over 2.7 million elementary and secondary school teachers in public and private schools.

• Over the past 20 years, the number of teachers has risen despite declining numbers of students.

• Since 1970, the faculty in public institutions of higher education has increased at a faster rate than the faculty at private institutions.

Number of faculty in institutions of higher education[1]

Fall of year	Total	Public	Private
1970	474,000	314,000	160,000
1975[2]	628,000	443,000	185,000
1980[2]	686,000	495,000	191,000
1985[2]	715,000	503,000	212,000
1990[2]	762,000	539,000	223,000

[1] Includes all full-time and part-time, junior and senior faculty.
[2] Estimated.

• Although mean salaries for public school teachers have risen steadily since 1976, they rose more slowly than the inflation rate between 1976 and 1980 and faster than the inflation rate in the 1980s.

Salaries in public schools and higher education

	School year ending			
	1976	1980	1988	1990
	(constant 1989-90 dollars)			
Teachers[1]				
Average	$27,535	$24,931	$29,317	$31,315
Beginning	19,024	17,433	19,372	20,476
Higher education faculty[2]	38,085	34,947	39,347	39,965

[1] Figures from the American Federation of Teachers.
[2] Includes full-time instructional faculty at public and private institutions.

• The percentage of female el/sec public school teachers has been between 65% and 70% for the last 20 years.

• The percentage of black teachers was about 8% in 1987, considerably lower than the proportion of black students. About 87% of all public el/sec teachers are white.

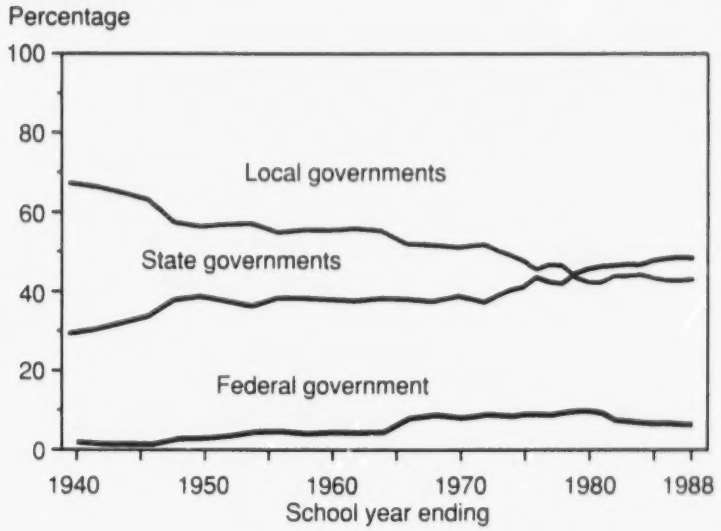
Public el/sec school teachers, by sex

	% Distribution in fall					
	1966	1971	1976	1981	1986	1987
Male	31.1	34.3	32.9	33.1	31.2	29.5
Female	69.0	65.7	67.0	66.9	68.8	70.5

5. Revenues

• In 1979, a historic shift occurred when the state share of elementary and secondary school revenues rose above the local share for the first time. The federal share for elementary and secondary schools has always been relatively small.

Revenues for public elementary and secondary schools, by source



• Despite dramatic tuition increases in recent years, tuition accounted for only about 15% of all revenues at public institutions in 1987 and for about 40% at private ones.

Sources of higher education revenues: 1987-88*

	Percent distribution				
	Tuition	Federal	State	Local	Other
Public	15.0	10.3	43.4	3.7	27.6
Private	39.1	16.6	2.5	0.6	41.1

* Preliminary data.

6. Expenditures

- Beginning in 1982, inflation-adjusted current expenditures[1] per student in public elementary/secondary schools began rising, reaching an estimated record high of $4,929 in 1990.
- Higher education expenditures[2] per student dropped between 1980 and 1982 after adjustment for inflation, but then started rising again with expenditures increasing more quickly at private institutions than at public institutions.

	Expenditures per student in current dollars			Expenditures per student in 1989–90 dollars		
School year ending	Public el/sec[1]	Higher education[2] Public	Higher education[2] Private	Public el/sec[1]	Higher education[2] Public	Higher education[2] Private
1975	1,365	$3,951	$6,217	3,345	$9,687	$15,242
1980	2,272	5,908	9,140	3,716	9,663	14,949
1985	3,470	8,720	14,006	4,166	10,469	16,815
1987	3,970	9,981	16,670	4,532	11,394	19,029
1988	[3]4,240	[3]10,471	[3]17,940	[3]4,648	[3]11,477	[3]19,664
1989	[4]4,639	—	—	[4]4,860	—	—
1990	[4]4,929	—	—	[4]4,929	—	—

— Not available.
[1] Current expenditures exclude capital outlay and interest on school debt.
[2] Current-fund expenditures are monies spent to meet current operating costs. They exclude capital expenditures, interest on school debts, loans, and investments. Constant dollars computed using the Consumer Price Index.
[3] Preliminary.
[4] Estimated.

- Total expenditures for all educational institutions account for about 7 percent of the gross national product (GNP).
- After rising rapidly between 1959 and 1969, the proportion of GNP spent on education dipped slightly during the 1970s as enrollment in elementary and secondary schools declined.

Calendar year	GNP in billions	School year ending	Expenditures[1] In billions	Expenditures[1] As % GNP
1959	$495.8	1960	$23.9	4.8
1969	963.9	1970	68.5	7.1
1979	2,508.2	1980	165.6	6.6
1980	2,732.0	1981	182.8	6.7
1985	4,014.9	1986	269.5	6.7
1986	4,231.6	1987	291.8	6.9
1987	4,515.6	1988	[2]313.0	6.9
1988	4,873.7	1989	[3]340.6	7.0
1989	5,200.8	1990	[3]365.4	7.0
1990	5,463.6	1991	[3]392.6	7.2

[1] Includes all expenditures on public and private elementary, secondary, and higher education.
[2] Preliminary.
[3] Estimated.

7. Educational Attainment

• The dropout rate among blacks 16 to 24 years old dropped from 28 percent in 1970 to 13 percent in 1990. The dropout rate for all 16- to 24-year-olds was 12 percent in 1990, down from 15 percent in 1970.

Percent of high school dropouts among persons 16 to 24 years old[1]

School year ending	Percent of persons who dropped out			
	All races	White[2]	Black[2]	Hispanic[3]
1970	15.0	13.2	27.9	---
1975	13.9	12.6	22.8	29.2
1980	14.1	13.3	19.3	35.2
1985	12.6	12.2	15.7	27.6
1986	12.1	11.9	13.7	30.0
1987	12.7	12.5	14.5	28.6
1988	12.9	12.7	14.9	35.8
1989	12.6	12.4	13.8	33.0
1990	12.1	12.0	13.2	32.4

[1] "Status" dropouts are persons who are not enrolled in school and are not high school graduates.
[2] Includes persons of Hispanic origin.
[3] Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

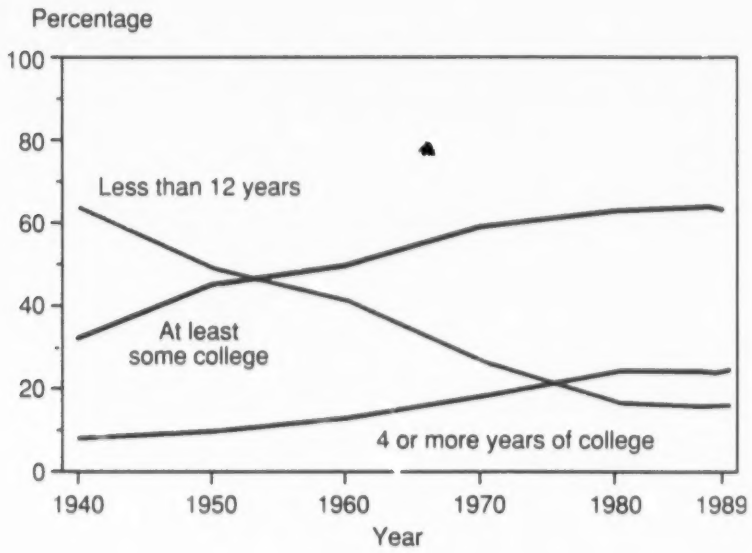
• Many people who do not complete high school by age 17 or 18 later receive high school diplomas or receive high school equivalency certificates after passing tests such as the General Educational Development (GED) test, thus boosting the high school completion rate for older Americans.

Year	Level of school completed			
	% Ages 25 to 29		% Ages 25 and over	
	H.S. or more[1]	4 or more years of college	H.S. or more[1]	4 or more years of college
1940	38.1	5.9	24.5	4.6
1950	52.8	7.7	34.3	6.2
1960	60.7	11.0	41.1	7.7
1970	75.4	16.4	55.2	11.0
1980	85.4	22.5	68.6	17.0
1986	86.1	22.4	74.7	19.4
1987	86.0	22.0	75.6	19.9
1988	85.9	22.7	76.2	20.3
1989	85.5	23.4	76.9	21.1

[1] Includes recipients of high school equivalency certificates.

• The education level of the U.S. adult population has been increasing since 1940. However, among young adults (ages 25–29), levels have not increased significantly since 1980.

Highest level of school completed by 25- to 29-year-olds



• Between 1988 and 1989 the number of associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctor's degrees increased, while the number of first-professional degrees remained the same.

Academic school year ending	AA/AS	BA/BS	MA/MS	Ph.D.	First professional
1971	252,610	839,730	230,509	32,107	37,946
1976	391,454	925,746	311,771	34,064	62,649
1981	416,377	935,140	295,739	32,958	71,956
1986	446,047	987,823	288,567	33,653	73,910
1987	437,137	991,339	289,557	34,120	72,750
1988	435,085	994,829	299,317	34,870	70,735
1989[1]	435,210	1,017,667	309,762	35,759	70,758
1990[2]	445,000	1,043,000	319,000	38,000	71,000

[1] Preliminary.
[2] Estimated.

AA/AS: Associate of arts, associate of sciences degrees.
BA/BS: Bachelor of arts, bachelor of sciences degrees.
MA/MS: Master of arts, master of sciences degrees.
Ph.D.: Doctor of philosophy degrees.
First Professional: Chiropractic, dentistry, law, medicine, optometry, osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, podiatry, theology, and veterinary medicine degrees.

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Sources

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March 1992

NCES 92–696

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